

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CALENDAR YEAR (CY) 2023 VETERAN HOMELESSNESS NATIONAL GOALS

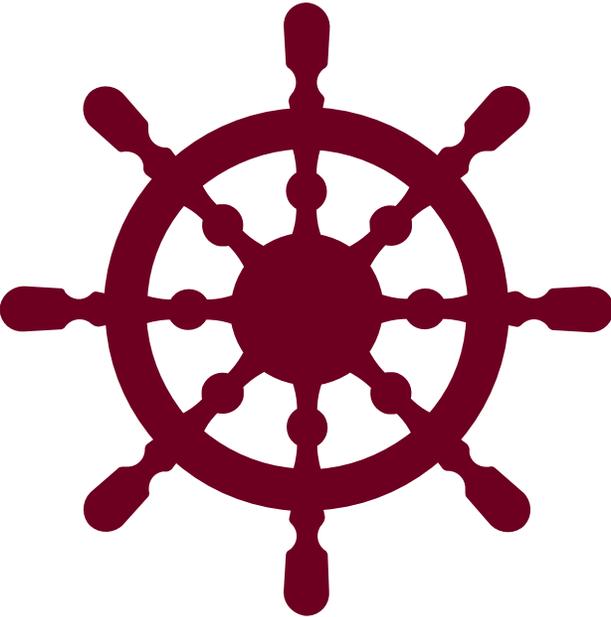
VHA Homeless Programs Office
March 10, 2023

AGENDA

- Leadership Remarks and Background Context
- VA's Homelessness Goals for CY 2023
- Tracking Progress
- VA Homeless Programs One Team Approach
- How the Homeless Programs Office will Support You
- Q&A and Next Steps



LEADERSHIP REMARKS AND BACKGROUND CONTEXT



BACKGROUND: VA'S GOAL TO HOUSE 38,000 HOMELESS VETERANS IN 2022

- Last year, VA set a goal to permanently house 38,000 homeless Veterans in CY 2022.
- “Permanent housing” includes apartments or houses that Veterans could rent or own, often with a subsidy to help make the housing affordable or reuniting with family and friends.
- **VA housed 40,401 homeless Veterans, exceeding the goal by more than 6%.**
- [Press Release: VA housed more than 40,000 homeless Veterans in 2022](#)



CY 2022 PERMANENT HOUSING PLACEMENTS

CY 2022 Goals and Monthly Progress

VISN, VAMC

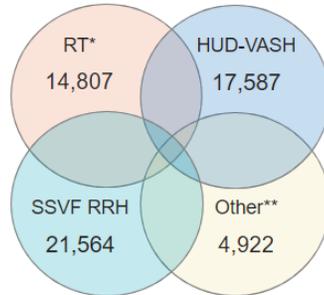
All

[Report Guide](#)

[HPO Business Intelligence](#)

Shared Placements

Includes single PHPs where programs overlap



De-duplicated PHPs
counting shared
placements only once

Total PHPs

41,760

Current Status

PHP data as of December 2022

Goal

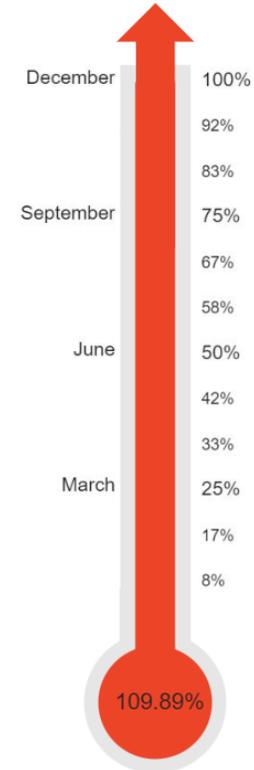
38,000

Average Placements
per month
needed to reach goal

Goal
Reached

Remaining PHPs
Needed
to reach goal

Goal
Reached



[Veteran Detail](#)

* RT Programs: GPD and HCHV CRS/LDSH

** Other: MH RRTP, GPD CM, HCHV CM, Homeless VJP, and SSVF HP

VA'S HOMELESSNESS GOALS FOR CY 2023



CY 2023 GOAL CONTEXT

This year's goals build on housing placement efforts from CY 2022 and adds prevention and outreach elements to achieve more holistic outcomes.

- Of the 40,401 individual Veterans housed in CY 2022, 2,443 (6%) Veterans returned to homelessness at some point last year.
- Of the 2,443 Veterans who have returned to homelessness:
 - 785 (32%) Veterans were re-housed and are in permanent housing.
 - 1,325 (54%) Veterans were re-enrolled in VA homeless programs and are on a path to permanent housing.
 - 333 (14%) Veterans are not currently enrolled in VA programs but are actively being outreached by VA homeless program staff and community partners to re-engage and re-enroll in services.
- Although the overall national trend has reflected increases in unsheltered homelessness:
 - Both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness for Veterans has declined since 2020.
 - According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2022 Annual Homeless Assessment Report, 33,129 were experiencing homelessness. Of that total, 13,564, or about 41% of Veterans experiencing homelessness, were unsheltered.

A NOTE ABOUT THE NUMBERS

National and local housing targets are still being finalized and will be announced on March 15, 2023.

GOAL 1: HOUSING HOMELESS VETERANS

During CY 2023, **VA will sustain efforts to permanently house homeless Veterans.**

- Credit for Veterans housed through this goal will follow a similar methodology to the CY 2022 for placements made from the following programs:
 - Grant and Per Diem (GPD), all grant models, including Case Management (CM).
 - Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Contracted Residential Services (CRS), Low Demand Safe Haven (LDSH) and CM.
 - Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH).
 - Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Rapid Rehousing (RRH) and Homeless Prevention (HP) for those Veterans who were homeless at entry.
 - Veterans Justice Programs (VJP), including Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) and Health Care for Reentry Veterans (HCRV)
 - Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment including the following bed types: Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans, Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence, Substance Use Disorder, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and General for those Veterans who were homeless at entry.
- The target is for **unique** Veterans housed. Veterans housed more than once only counted one time.

GOAL 2: PREVENTING RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS

During CY 2023, VA will work to ensure that **Veterans do not return to homelessness and that Veterans who become homeless again will be quickly re-housed or reenrolled in programs that place them on a path toward permanent housing.**

- This goal also supports the approved VHA metric for FY 2023 to ensure negative exit rates for Veterans housed in Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing do not exceed 14%.
- This goal requires a new or renewed focus on creative retention strategies, including:
 - Landlord mediation, legal services, and a focused emphasis on avoiding negative exits from VA homeless programs.
 - Community-level diversion and prevention strategies focused on those Veterans originally housed via VA homeless programs.
 - Coordinated rehousing strategies for Veterans who become homeless after being housed via VA services.

GOAL 3: ENHANCED OUTREACH TO UNSHELTERED VETERANS

During CY 2023, VA will **increase outreach and engagement with unsheltered Veterans.**

- This goal also supports the approved VHA metric to reduce the number of unsheltered homeless Veterans by 15% from the 2020 Point-in-Time count by September 2024.
- Key strategies include:
 - A renewed *One Team* approach to outreach activities, ensuring full coverage throughout geography
 - Protocol for rapid placement in permanent or temporary housing (i.e., emergency shelter and transitional housing) options to get Veterans out of unsheltered situations.
 - Enhanced data collection and by-name list management to coordinate outreach and follow-up activities.
 - Deployment of peer specialists and other creative staffing approaches that promote culturally competent, trauma-informed engagement practices in varying locations.
 - Community-level rapid resolution efforts to promote immediate safety and connections to other natural supports.
 - Deployment of rapid resolution services to help Veterans identify alternatives to staying on the street or places not meant for human habitation, even while in housing search.
 - Direct same-day access to temporary housing options
 - Efforts led and designed by peer specialists or Veterans with lived homeless expertise to connect with Veterans who may otherwise be resistant to VA or community housing options.
 - Deployment of SSVF landlord incentives for high-barrier Veterans coming from outside settings.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **House literally homeless Veterans** identified through coordinated entry processes, local by-name lists (BNL), and VA and community-partner outreach services.
- **Promote stable tenancies** through creative, proactive engagement and case management strategies while ensuring Veterans can reconnect to service quickly if housing challenges arise.
- **Honor Veteran choice**, including needs and preferences for care, when determining appropriate services and housing placements. Center Veterans' lived experience and culture in the effort.
- **Lead with equity** while prioritizing permanent and safe housing solutions for all Veterans.
- **Provide supportive services** to Veterans with complex needs or histories of chronic homelessness through a trauma-informed, Veteran centered approach based on cultural humility.
- **Enhance coordination and community policy development** among VA homeless programs and community partners, including GPD, HCHV CRS/LDSH, and SSVF service providers; Continuum of Care (CoC) partners; public housing authorities (PHA); advocacy groups for and made up of Veterans with lived experience; landlords; city and county officials; and other service providers.

TRACKING PROGRESS



CY 2023 DASHBOARD DEVELOPMENT

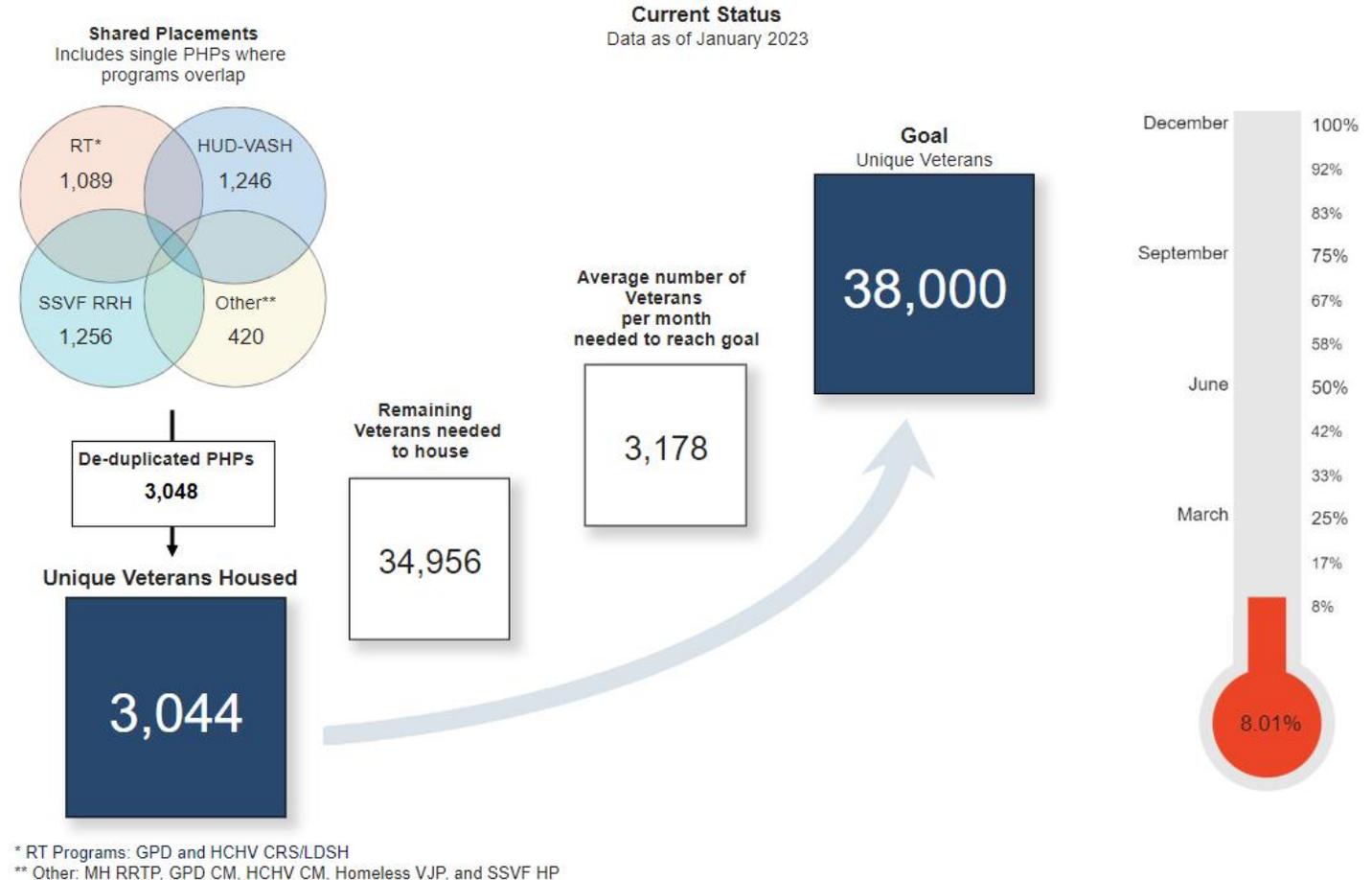
Unique Veterans Housed

While this section of the dashboard is similar to CY 2022, the focus for CY 2023 is on Unique Veterans Housed.

Figures do not necessarily represent actual goal targets or performance. These are for illustration purposes only.

Final dashboard illustrations may vary from these examples.

The finalized CY 2023 dashboard will be available by the beginning of April 2023.

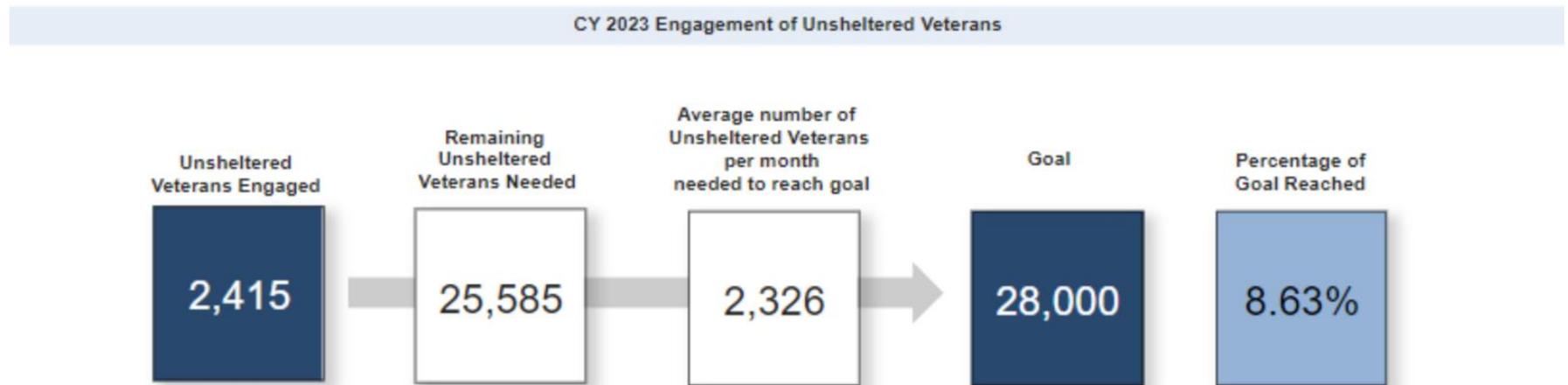
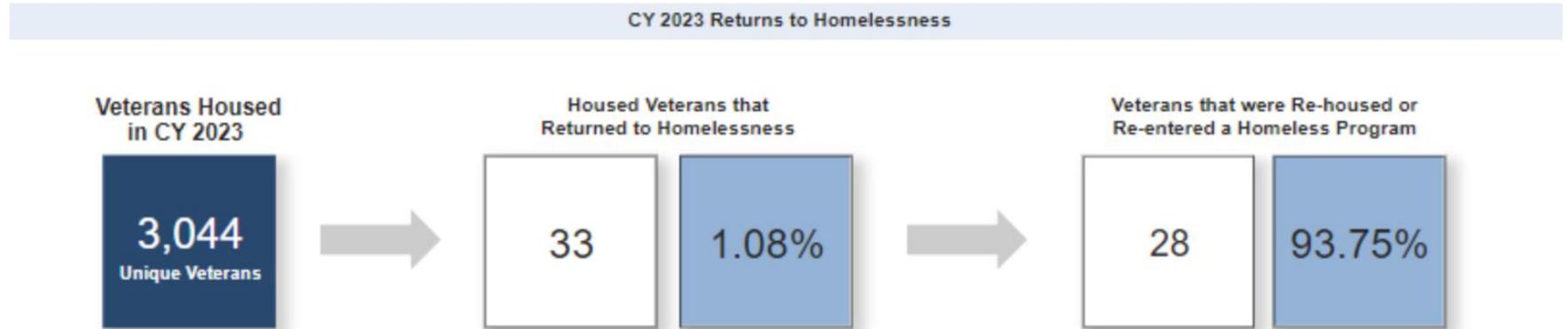


CY 2023 DASHBOARD DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED



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Final dashboard illustrations may vary from these examples.



VA HOMELESS PROGRAMS ONE TEAM APPROACH: VA HOMELESS PROGRAMS



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Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams (HPACT)

OUR ONE TEAM APPROACH

- Each individual Veteran is our collective responsibility. We must support their housing needs and goals.
- All VA homeless programs must prioritize housing placements and retention strategies for homeless or at-risk Veterans.
- This will require an effective One Team approach among all VA homeless programs, especially:
 - HUD-VASH permanent supportive housing (PSH).
 - SSVF rapid rehousing (RRH).
 - GPD transitional housing (TH) and case management (CM).
 - HCHV outreach and CRS/LDSH.
 - Homeless Veterans Community Employment Services (HVCES), VJP, and other specialized service programs
- Lead a balanced approach to offer the necessary supports to sustain long-term tenancies and limit returns to homelessness, including with co-enrollment in certain circumstances.
- Fully coordinate outreach and linkages to interim housing with “same day” access and cross-referral protocol.
- Using data to inform strategies that promote equitable access to and delivery of critical outreach and housing services.
- Full commitment to case conferencing, list management and cross-program collaboration in the overall system and individual Veteran-level planning.

HUD-VASH

- Increase collaboration to expedite housing placement for Veterans in need among:
 - SSVF
 - GPD
 - Other VA programs
 - Community partners
- Maintain Veterans in HUD-VASH housing by reducing preventable exits, including:
 - Decreasing negative exits.
 - Evaluating preventable exits from HUD-VASH housing *and* case management.
 - Employing interventions to decrease preventable exits.
- Support collaborative training opportunities for VA medical centers (VAMC) and partnering public housing authorities (PHA).
 - Joint technical assistance opportunities within each of HUD's 10 Regions.
 - Two-day sessions will include staff from HUD Field Offices, HUD-VASH participating PHAs, and VAMCs.
 - Virtual opportunities and supplementary technical assistance and support will be available.

SSVF

- Prioritize rapid rehousing services to meet all demand for referrals from literally homeless Veterans on each community's BNL, including unsheltered Veterans engaged in outreach.
- Strategically deploy landlord incentives, and one-time temporary financial assistance (TFA) to help Veterans with high barriers access permanent housing, including other VA homeless programs such as HCHV, GPD, or HUD-VASH.
- Review needs of Veterans enrolled in Shallow Subsidy and utilize progressive assistance referrals to HUD-VASH, as appropriate, to ensure enrolled Veterans retain permanent housing.
- Build upon and expand landlord partnerships using new SSVF tools as a basis for an ongoing relationship and access to available units.

SSVF

- Actively collaborate with all VA homeless programs to ensure wrap-around supports are available for Veterans experiencing a housing crisis.
- Develop strategic discharge planning processes to reduce returns to homelessness post-SSVF exit.
- Pursue targeted Homelessness Prevention (HP) strategies to prevent Veterans from returning to homelessness, including rapid resolution, traditional HP targeting, direct legal support and Shallow Subsidy services.
- Target Rapid Resolution, Shallow Subsidy and legal services toward homelessness prevention.

GPD – TH AND CM

- Enhance strategies to engage unsheltered Veterans in services. Collaborate with coordinated entry systems to house literally homeless Veterans on the BNL or those engaged in outreach settings.
- Examine program structures to ensure no unnecessary barriers to accessing services or to keep Veterans engaged in services.
- Emphasize same-day access to safe housing and services while continuing to facilitate timely transitions to permanent housing.
 - In 2022, GPD grantees placed more than 10,000 Veterans in permanent housing with an average length of stay of fewer than six months.
- Increasing the opportunities for GPD providers to collaborate with other VA resources to accelerate transitions to permanent housing. Strategies include:
 - SSVF Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA), including security deposits and landlord and tenant incentives.
 - SSVF Shallow Subsidy for Veterans in Transition In Place (TIP) models.
 - HUD-VASH Case Management Collaborative and transitions from Bridge housing.
- Embed GPD Case Management grants into local systems of care supporting housing retention efforts and preventing returns to homelessness.
- Use data to inform progress and continuously improve performance.

HCHV

For Outreach:

- Renewed focus on community-based outreach services provided directly on the streets, in encampments, at congregate meal sites, at Community Resource and Referral Centers (CRRC), or with the help of community partnerships.
- The HCHV Program Office has secured funding for additional 160 outreach and Coordinated Entry (CE) positions to enhance outreach efforts.
- Increased focus on identifying and engaging unsheltered Veterans through local CE systems and BNLs.

For Contracted Emergency Residential Services (CRS):

- Focus on reducing barriers and time to entry. The ability to offer unsheltered Veterans a safe and immediate stay is critical in reducing unsheltered homelessness.
- Preventing negative discharges from all CRS models (i.e., HCHV2) to ensure continuity of care and successful permanent housing outcomes.
- Continued focus on exits to permanent housing (i.e., HCHV1). CRS programs will enhance case management for housing navigation and coordination with partner programs such as SSVF or HUD-VASH.

HPACT, HVCES, AND VJP

- For HPACT staff:
 - Ensure the Veterans served by your HPACT who live in sheltered or unsheltered settings are monitored by your community's BNL.
 - Talk to your Veterans today about their housing plans. Offer to connect them to housing resources (e.g., emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing) if they are not connected yet.
 - Help coordinate the care of those Veterans with your HUD-VASH and SSVF partners by relaying messages between Veterans and their housing providers.
- For HVCES staff:
 - Continue to provide employment services to support access to housing, housing stability and community integration as part of the goal.
 - Continue to further integrate employment services into homeless programs so that national employment targets for HUD-VASH and GPD will be met.
 - Continue connecting with VA, community partners, and employers to increase the availability of services and improve employment outcomes.
- For VJP staff:
 - Link Veterans to legal services to help avoid eviction.

HOW THE HOMELESS PROGRAMS OFFICE WILL SUPPORT YOU



ADDRESSING BARRIERS AND IDENTIFYING BRIGHT SPOTS

- Support developing and implementing strategic actions to achieve the 2023 goals.
- Address systemic barriers that emerge both nationally and at the local level.
- Provide broad technical assistance for all programs.
- Identify and disseminate innovative and emerging best practices.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT

- *Monthly* office hours to support local strategic planning efforts
 - First Thursdays of the month at 3:00 p.m. Eastern /12:00 p.m. Pacific.
 - Invitations will follow this call.
 - The first call will be on April 6
 - Opportunity to surface additional needs for national support.
 - Opportunity to highlight strong and innovative practices.
- Developing tools to assist your efforts, including:
 - Resource page on the [VHA Homeless Programs Operational Planning Hub](#).
 - Regularly updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) list.
 - Dedicated VA HPO email address to support communications
 - VHA11HPO38kGoalSupport@va.gov.
 - Housing Placement Dashboard (links coming soon).
- Prioritizing and updating support throughout the calendar year.

ENGAGEMENT WITH FEDERAL PARTNERS AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Ensure VAMCs are engaged in communities that received the HUD unsheltered SNOFO and the communities selected for the DPC/USICH unsheltered Sprint
- Engage with the mayoral, county, and other elected officials.
- Engage with intra-agency partners (e.g., the Office of Mental Health, the Office of Community Faith-based Initiatives, the Office of Minority Veterans, and the Veterans Benefits Administrations' Homeless Outreach).
- Collaborate with interagency partners to engage with hard-to-reach Veterans (e.g., HUD, Health and Human Services, Department of Justice).
- Provide talking points and calls to action in VA senior leadership speeches.

Q&A AND NEXT STEPS



WRAPPING UP

- The recording of this call will be posted to the [VHA Homeless Programs Hub](#) in the coming days and [VA.gov/Homeless](#).
- Join our first 2023 Office Hours call!
 - The first Office Hours call will be held Thursday, April 6, at 3:00 p.m. Eastern / 2:00 p.m. Central / 11:00 p.m. Mountain / 12:00 p.m. Pacific / 9:00 a.m. Hawaii.
 - For questions, please email VHA11HPO38kGoalSupport@va.gov.

~~*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” – Margaret Mead*~~

“Never doubt that you can change the world; indeed, you will again.” – Shawn Liu